

Para mi gran Amigo
Dean Hendrickson.



ADDITIONAL RECORDS OF BIRDS FROM CUATRO CIÉNEGAS BASIN, NATURAL PROTECTED AREA, COAHUILA, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT—We recorded for the first time in Cuatro Ciénegas Basin, Coahuila, Mexico, 43 species, 33 of them represented by specimens and 10 only by visual observations. These records increase the species known for the basin by 38.4%. The fieldwork was conducted during 1996 and 1997. Two species are new records for the state of Coahuila: *Larus atricilla* and *Camptostoma imberbe*.

RESUMEN—Se registran por primera vez para el Valle de Cuatro Ciénegas, Coahuila, México, 43 especies, 33 de ellas representadas por ejemplares y 10 sólo son observaciones visuales. Con estos registros se eleva en un 38.4% las especies conocidas para el citado valle. El trabajo se efectuó entre 1996–1997. Dos especies son nuevos registros para el estado de Coahuila: *Larus atricilla* y *Camptostoma imberbe*.

Recently, Contreras-Balderas et al. (1997) described seasonal and ecological distributions of birds in Cuatro Ciénegas Basin, Coahuila, Mexico, in a paper that included a review of the ornithological literature and a report of 108 species that they collected or observed in the basin from April 1990 through March 1991. González-Rojas et al. (1999) reported 4 new visual records of birds from this basin: *Tachybaptus dominicus*, *Casmerodius albus*, *Co-*

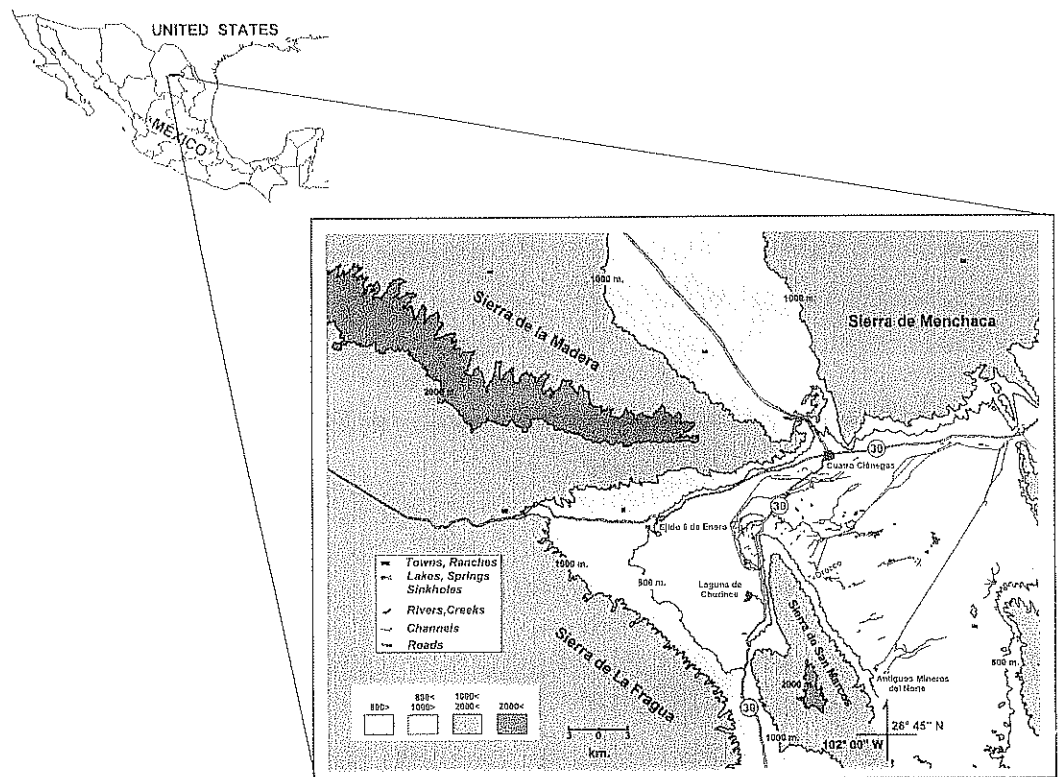


FIG. 1—Cuatro Ciénegas Basin, Mexico. Areas shadowed correspond to mountains; white area color is Cuatro Ciénegas Basin.

ragybs atratus, and *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. Herein, we present new avian distribution records supported by specimens from Cuatro Ciénegas Basin (Fig. 1). These data were collected from November 1996 through November 1997, and all are new records for the basin. All specimens were deposited in the Bird Collection, Laboratorio de Ornitología, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL). Nomenclature and systematic order follow American Ornithologists' Union (1998), season permanence follows Howell and Webb (1995), and habitats (vegetational types) follow Henrickson and Johnston (1983).

SPECIES ACCOUNTS

Black-bellied Whistling-duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*. Specimens: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), UANL 2180 (male, testes 12×3 mm; 11 April 1997), UANL 2181 (male, 15×4 mm; 11 April 1997). Visual record: La-

guna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 12 individuals on 11 April 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) did not include Coahuila in the distribution of the black-bellied whistling-duck, but Urban (1959) cited Evenden (1952), who reported the species in a reservoir in southern Coahuila, along a railroad between Saltillo, Coahuila, and Avalos, Zacatecas. The status of this species is not well known, however, our 2 male specimens showed gonadal development.

Blue-winged Teal, *Anas discors*. Specimens: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), UANL 2185 (male, testes 9×3 mm; 12 April 1997), UANL 2317 (female; 27 September 1997), UANL 2318 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2312 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2313 (female; 27 September 1997). Visual records: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 16 individuals on 27 September 1997 and 9 individuals on 28 September 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Cinnamon Teal, *Anas cyanoptera*. Specimen: 0.9 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2212 (male, testes 17×9 mm; 12 May 1997). Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor. Howell and Webb (1995) cited cinnamon teal as winter visitor, and Urban (1959) reported this species during May.

Ruddy Duck, *Oxyura jamaicensis*. Specimen: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), UANL 2379 (29 November 1997). Visual records: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 1 individual on 1 April 1997, 1 individual on 27 September 1997, and 35 individuals on 29 November 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) reported ruddy duck as a breeding resident, but we collected and observed them only during the fall.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*. Specimen: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2104 (male; 7 December 1996). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Northern Bobwhite, *Colinus virginianus*. Specimens: Poza Tía Tecla, UANL 2303 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2304 (female; 27 September 1997), UANL 2305 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2306 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2307 (female; 27 September 1997), UANL 2308 (female; 27 September 1997), UANL 2309 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2310 (male; 27 September 1997). Visual records: Poza Tía Tecla, 1 individual on 12 May 1997 and 45 individuals on 27 September 1997; 9 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 6 individuals on 27 November 1997. Habitat: riparian, mezquital, and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Sandhill Crane, *Grus canadensis*. Specimen: 9 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2362 (sex not determined; 27 November 1997). Visual records: 1 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 100 individuals on 5 December 1996, 47 individuals on 14 March 1997, and 85 individuals on 15 March 1997; 0.9 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 150 individuals on 27 November 1997. Habitat: salt-tolerant grasses and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor. Howell and Webb (1995) and Sibley (2000) did not include Coahuila in the distribution of the sandhill crane, but Sutton and Burleigh (1939) remarked that

a flock of sandhill cranes was heard near Mayran during January. We found this species during the fall and winter seasons in Cuatro Ciénegas Basin.

Black-necked Stilt, *Himantopus mexicanus*. Specimens: 0.9 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2213 (male, testes 10×4 mm; 12 May 1997), UANL 2214 (female, ovule in development, 25×25 mm and 25×20 mm; 12 May 1997). Visual records: 0.9 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 5 individuals on 12 May 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor.

Long-billed Curlew, *Numenius americanus*. Specimen: 9 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2366 (female; 27 November 1997). Visual records: 13 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 40 individuals on 15 March 1997; 9 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 1 individual on 27 November 1997). Habitat: disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica*. Specimens: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2103 (female; 7 December 1996); Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2298 (male; 26 September 1997), UANL 2299 (male; 26 September 1997), UANL 2300 (female; 26 September 1997). Visual records: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 1 individual on 5 December 1996 and 1 individual on 7 December 1996; Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 12 individuals on 12 May 1997, 8 individuals on 13 May 1997, and 30 individuals on 26 September 1997; Poza la Tía Tecla, 4 individuals on 12 May 1997; 17 km NNE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 1 individual on 12 May 1997. Habitat: riparian, mezquital, and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Common Ground-dove, *Columbina passerina*. Specimen: 7 km WNW of Cuatro Ciénegas, UANL 2275 (female; 25 September 1997). Visual records: Poza Orozco, 2 individuals on 13 May 1997, 2 individuals on 20 August 1997, and 4 individuals on 26 September 1997; Poza La Becerra, 2 individuals on 19 June 1997. Habitat: alkali scrub, riparian, and mezquital. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder. Urban (1959), Howell and Webb (1995), and Sibley (2000) included only northern Coahuila in the distribution of the common ground-dove. Its presence in Cuatro Ciénegas Basin extends

the breeding range of the common ground-dove to the south.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*. Specimen: 0.2 km WNW of Poza Orozco, UANL 2259 (female, gonadal development; 21 June 1997). Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor. Howell and Webb (1995) listed the yellow-billed cuckoo as a nonbreeding visitor in Coahuila, but we found a female exhibiting gonadal development.

Eastern Screech-owl, *Otus asio*. Specimens: Poza Orozco, UANL 2236 (male, testes 6×4 mm; 13 May 1997), UANL 2237 (female, gonadal development; 14 May 1997). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Common Poorwill, *Phalaenoptilus nuttallii*. Specimens: 6 km NW of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2085 (male; 6 December 1996); Poza La Becerra, UANL 2161 (female; 13 March 1997). Habitat: alkali scrub and salt-tolerant grasses. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, *Sphyrapicus varius*. Specimen: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2081 (male; 6 December 1996). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Eastern Wood-pewee, *Contopus virens*. Specimens: 0.2 km WNW of Poza Orozco, UANL 2268 (male; 20 August 1997), UANL 2271 (male; 21 August 1997), and UANL 2272 (female; 21 August 1997). Visual records: 0.2 km WNW of Poza Orozco, 3 individuals on 21 August 1997. Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor. Howell and Webb (1995) and Sibley (2000) did not include Coahuila in the distribution of the eastern wood-pewee from, but Urban (1959) mentioned it as an uncommon transient in Coahuila.

Least Flycatcher, *Empidonax minimus*. Specimen: 0.5 km N of Poza El Anteojo, UANL 2177 (female; 11 April 1997). Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor.

Gray Flycatcher, *Empidonax wrightii*. Specimen: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2097 (male; 7 December 1996). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Western Kingbird, *Tyrannus verticalis*. Specimen: Poza Orozco, UANL 2240 (female; 14

May 1997). Visual records: Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 4 individuals on 12 May 1997; Poza Orozco, 6 individuals on 14 May 1997 and 2 individuals on 19–21 June 1997. Habitat: riparian, alkali scrub, and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor.

Chihuahuan Raven, *Corvus cryptoleucus*. Specimen: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), UANL 2184 (male; 12 April 1997). Visual record: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 1 individual on 12 April 1997. Habitat: salt-tolerant grasses. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder?

Cave Swallow, *Petrochelidon fulva*. Specimens: Poza Orozco, UANL 2238 (male; 14 May 1997), UANL 2239 (female; 14 May 1997); 4.5 km NW of Poza Orozco, UANL 2253 (male; 21 June 1997), UANL 2254 (male; 21 June 1997), and UANL 2255 (male; 21 June 1997). Visual records: Poza Orozco, 1 individual on 17 January 1997 and 18 individuals 14 May 1997; Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 6 individuals on 12 May 1997 and 4 individuals on 13 May 1997; 4.5 km NW of Poza Orozco, 75 individuals on 21 June 1997; 4.5 km SSE of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 25 individuals on 21 June 1997; 0.2 km WNW of Poza Orozco, 6 individuals on 21 June 1997. Habitat: alkali scrub and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides*. Specimens: extreme S of Dunas Blancas, UANL 2146 (male; 2 February 1997), UANL 2152 (female; 3 February 1997), UANL 2153 (male; 3 February 1997); extreme E of Dunas Blancas, UANL 2144 (female; 2 February 1997), UANL 2145 (male; 2 February 1997), UANL 2148 (female; 2 February 1997), UANL 2149 (male; 2 February 1997). Visual records: extreme S of Dunas Blancas, 29 individuals on 2 February 1997 and 12 individuals on 3 February 1997; Ejido 6 de Enero, 2 individuals on 14 March 1997. Habitat: gypsophilous scrub and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*. Specimens: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2101 (male; 7 December 1996), UANL 2175 (male; 15 March 1997). Visual records: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 7 individuals on 7 December 1996; Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 4 individuals on 15 March 1997; Poza Orozco, 1

individual on 18 January 1997. Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Crissal Thrasher, *Toxostoma crissale*. Specimens: 3.2 km NW of San Marcos, UANL 2341 (male; 19 October 1997); 7 km WNW of Cuatro Ciénegas, UANL 2279 (female; 25 September 1997). Habitat: mezquital and alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Cedar Waxwing, *Bombycilla cedrorum*. Specimens: Poza Orozco, UANL 2117 (male; 17 January 1997), UANL 2118 (female; 17 January 1997), UANL 2234 (female; 13 May 1997). Visual records: Poza Orozco, 85 individuals on 17 January 1997 and 30 individuals on 13 May 1997; 8 km SE of Ejido 6 de Enero, 4 individuals on 4 February 1997. Habitat: riparian, salt-tolerant grasses, and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Nashville Warbler, *Vermivora ruficapilla*. Specimen: Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), UANL 2315 (male; 27 September 1997). Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor.

Louisiana Waterthrush, *Seiurus motacilla*. Specimen: Poza Orozco, UANL 2169 (female; 14 March 1997). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor. Sibley (2000) did not include Coahuila in the distribution of the Louisiana waterthrush, but Howell and Webb (1995) included them in the extreme northeastern portion of the state, and, combined with our record, this is a notable increase in the winter distribution.

Rufous-crowned Sparrow, *Aimophila ruficeps*. Specimen: Poza Azul, UANL 2354 (sex unknown; 20 October 1997). Habitat: salt-tolerant grasses. Seasonal permanence: resident breeder.

Grasshopper Sparrow, *Ammodramus saviannarum*. Specimens: 7 km WNW of Cuatro Ciénegas, UANL 2277 (male; 25 September 1997), UANL 2278 (male; 25 September 1997); Rio Mezquites, UANL 2325 (male; 17 October 1997), UANL 2332 (male; 18 October 1997); Poza Azul, UANL 2352 (male; 20 October 1997). Habitat: salt-tolerant grasses and alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Varied Bunting, *Passerina versicolor*. Specimen: Poza Tia Tecla, UANL 2221 (female, gonadal development; 12 May 1997). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: summer resident.

Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus*. Specimens: Antiguos Mineros del Norte,

UANL 2171 (male; 15 March 1997); 0.9 km N of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2301 (male; 27 September 1997), UANL 2302 (female; 27 September 1997); Poza Azul, UANL 2342 (female; 19 October 1997), UANL 2343 (male; 19 October 1997), UANL 2345 (male; 19 October 1997), UANL 2346 (male; 19 October 1997), UANL 2355 (female; 20 October 1997), UANL 2361 (female; 20 October 1997). Visual records: Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 18 individuals on 15 March 1997 and 75 individuals on 26 September 1997; Poza Azul, 120 individuals on 19 October 1997 and 70 individuals on 20 October 1997. Habitat: salt-tolerant grasses and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Pine Siskin, *Carduelis pinus*. Specimen: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2098 (male; 7 December 1996). Visual records: Cuatro Ciénegas, 25 individuals on 10 April 1997. Habitat: riparian and disturbed areas. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

American Goldfinch, *Carduelis tristis*. Specimen: Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, UANL 2172 (female; 15 March 1997). Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Other species that were visually registered in the basin as new records but lack voucher specimens were:

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 1 individual on 11 April 1997, 1 individual on 27 September 1997, and 1 individual on 28 November 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) reported the Neotropic cormorant as resident breeder, but we do not have evidence of breeding, and we consider its breeding status as unknown. This species is expanding its distribution.

American Bittern, *Botaurus lentiginosus*. Rio Mezquites, 1 individual on 18 October 1997 and 1 individual on 26 June 2002. Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) included the American bittern as a winter visitor, but on 26 June 2002, D. Hendrickson and M. Crisp (University of Texas-Austin, pers. comm.) reported a specimen on Rio Mezquites at 26°55'24"N, 102°04'27"W. It displayed distraction behavior, which suggested that it likely had a nest nearby.

Although confirmation is lacking, this species is probably a breeding resident.

White-faced Ibis, *Plegadis chihi*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 5 individuals on 28 September 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 2 individuals on 27 September 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: nonbreeding visitor.

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 1 individual on 28 September 1997 and 1 individual on 29 November 1997. Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) listed the peregrine falcon as a resident breeder, but we observed this species only in September and November. We consider its status to be unknown, although they probably nest in the mountains around the basin.

Laughing Gull, *Larus atricilla*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 1 individual on 12 April 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: probably nonbreeding visitor.

Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*. Laguna Puente Zumbadora (Las Playitas), 15 individuals on 28 November 1997 and 5 individuals on 29 November 1997. Habitat: aquatic. Seasonal permanence: winter visitor.

White-throated Swift, *Aeronautes saxatilis*. Poza Grande at Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 1 individual on 6 December 1996. Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) cited the white-throated swift as a resident breeder, but we observed them only one time, during December. We consider it to be a winter visitor or unknown.

Northern Beardless-tyrannulet, *Camptostoma imberbe*. Poza Orozco. 1 individual on 19 June 1997. Habitat: riparian. Seasonal permanence: unknown. The northern beardless-tyrannulet probably nests in the basin, but we have only 1 observation for June; no more information is available to support this position. Howell and Webb (1995) did not report this species for Coahuila.

Canyon Towhee, *Pipilo fuscus*. 6 km NW of Antiguos Mineros del Norte, 1 individual on 7 December 1996. Habitat: alkali scrub. Seasonal permanence: unknown. Howell and Webb (1995) listed the canyon towhee as a resident breeder, but we have only 1 observation in a

canyon, even though we visited this area several times during 1 year. We have not observed them during other seasons, so we consider the breeding status to be unknown.

Of the 43 species recorded in this paper, 38 were expected and 5 were unexpected. The seasonalities of the reported species were 17 winter visitors, 9 resident breeders, 8 nonbreeding visitors, 1 summer resident, and 8 of unknown status. Additionally, 2 species were new records from Coahuila: laughing gull (*L. atricilla*) and northern beardless-tyrannulet (*C. imberbe*). Supplementing reports by Contreras-Balderas et al. (1997) and Gonzalez-Rojas (1999), the avifauna from Cuatro Ciénegas Basin in Coahuila includes 155 species. The 43 new species we have added represent a 38.4% increase; 10 of these are visual records, and 33 are represented by specimens. The avifauna from this basin is dynamic and will require additional field study to be fully documented.

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